

Message Text

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13
ACTION SS-30

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O R 050820Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 2123
INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0562
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6609

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US, UN CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPRESENTATION IN 28TH GA: AUSTRALIAN POSITION

REFS: (A) STATE 236116 (NOTAL) ; (B) STATE 236939 (NOTAL):
(C) CANBERRA 6572 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GOA HAS REACHED A SOLID DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON ISSUE OF DEFERMENT IF IT COMES TO A VOTE.
END SUUMARY

2. AT LUNCHEON TODAY (DECEMBER 5) WITH PETER VILENSKI (WHITLAM'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT) AND AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING IN FONOFF WHERE I WAS CALLED IN BY SIR KEITH WALLER, WE DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OUR CONTRASTING ATTITUDES ON CAMBODIA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO IMMEDIATE UN ISSUES.

3. WALLER GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIVE AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON CAMBODIA SET FORTH IN INFORMAL PAPER WHICH HE HANDED ME:

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(A) GOA POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN NORMAL, IF LOW-KEY RELATIONS, WITH LON NO1 GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PEHN; AT SAME TIME GOA HAS ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH GRUNK IN PEKING. GOA WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THERE RELATIONS AS

LONG AS LON NO1 GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE CAPITAL CAMBODIA
AND IS IN UN.

(B) QUESTION OF GOA RELATIONS WITH EITHER LONG NO1 GOVERNMENT OR GRUNK IN THE EVENT OF A UN VOTE UNSEATING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LON NO1 GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN GIVEN ANY ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY GOA.

(C) AUSTRALIA , IF IN THE COMPANY OF THE ASEAN PLUS GROUP, WILL VOTE AGAINST THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION IN THE UN. IF THE ISSUE OF DEFERMENT COMES TO A VOTE, GOA INTENDS TO ABSTAIN. IT REGARDS THIS MATTER AS A PROCEDURAL DEVICE RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE.

(D) GOA SEES NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE QUESTION OF ITS CAMBODIAN POLICY AND THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHWEST CAPE AND CONSIDERS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SUCH CONNECTION; NOR DOES IT SEE ANY US INTEREST BEING SERVED BY ESTABLISHING SUCH A CONNECTION. IT HOPES THAT DIFFERENCES IN OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TOWARDS CAMBODIA WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO EFFECT THE ATTITUDES OF US AUTHORITIES TOWARDS MINISTER OF DEFENSE BARNARD'S VISIT.

4. I SHALL NOT INFILCT ON WASHINGTON A REPETITION OF THE MANY POINTS I MADE TO WILENSKI AND WALLER TO THE FOREGOING POSITION. A MAIN POINT OF WALLER'S CALLING ME TO HIS OFFICE WAS EVIDENTLY TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER LINKING CAMBODIAN POLICY TO NORTHWEST CAPE NEGOTIATIONS, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY EA TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 3. I REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF THE LINKAGE QUESTION, SAVE TO SAY I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.

5. WALLER NOTED AT ONE POINT IN OUR CONVERSATION THAT THERE HAD BEEN QUITE A DISPLAY OF ENERGY SHOWN IN RECENT DAYS BY US AND ESPECIALLY OTHERS, LIKE JAPAN AND INDONESIA. HE OBSERVED THAT HAD ALL THIS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOA

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SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. THIS PROMPTED ME TO REFRESH HIS MEMORY ON THE MANY CONVERSATIONS ON CAMBODIA I HAVE HAD WITH GOA OFFICIALS FROM WHITLAM ON DOWN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, ALTHOUGH THE AWG DEFERMENT APPROACH HAD ONLY RECENTLY COME TO MY ATTENTION. WALLER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS.

6. COMMENT: AS STATED IN REFTEL (C), WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REVERSE WHITLAM'S DECISION ON ABSTENTION ON DEFERMENT MOTION, BUT OUR REPRESENTATIONS, AND BELATEDLY THOSE OF JAPAN AND ASEAN COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN KEEPING AUSTRALIA FROM RECOGNIZING GRUNK SHOULD LATTER BE SEATED IN UN. NOW THAT WE HAVE WORRIED THE AUSTRALAINS

ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THEIR CAMBODIA POLICY ON THE BARNARD
VISIT. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT FURTHER RESORT
TO THIS LINE, LEST IT IMPINGE ADVERSELY ON NWC NEGOTIATIONS
WHERE WE HAVE MUCH AT STAKE.

GREEN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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